

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 EUR-12 EA-09 /039 W

-----090517Z 116279 /10

R 090340Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2817

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS MUSCAT 0032

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP MU

SUBJECT: PROPOSED NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION IOGA

REF: 76 STATE 299395

1. OUR CONTACTS WITH LOCAL MERCHANTS INDICATE THAT THERE MIGHT BE A GOOD MARKET FOR US FOREST PRODUCTS IN OMAN IF SERIOUS DIS-ADVANTAGE OF HIGH SHIPPING COSTS AND DELAYED SHIPMENTS ARE OVERCOME. LUMBER FOR CONSTRUCTION SCAFFOLDING, PLYWOOD, AND FINISHED FLOOR AND WALL PANELS FOR HOUSING ARE MAIN USES. BIGGEST EXPORTERS OF WOOD PRODUCTS TO OMAN ARE FINLAND, SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA, AUSTRIA, USSR, AND YUGOSLAVIA.

2. USE OF LUMBER FOR CONSTRUCTION WILL TEMPORARILY DROP SINCE GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS ARE GETTING FEWER. DURING FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1976, THERE WAS A 20 PERCENT DECLINE IN IMPORTS FROM THE
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1975 LEVEL. HOWEVER, THE MARKET COULD RISE AGAIN IN 1977-78. SUBSTANTIAL OPPORTUNITIES SHOULD ARISE FROM COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF RUWI VALLEY AND A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT HOUSING PROJECTS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF OMAN. BEST CHANCES FOR AMERICAN EXPORTS WOULD COME FROM HARD BOARD AND TECHNICALLY SUPERIOR FINISHED WOOD PRODUCTS.

3. 1975 IMPORTS OF WOOD PRODUCTS INTO OMAN ARE AS FOLLOWS
(IN RIALS OMANI; 1 RO EQUALS \$2.92):

A. PLYSOOD

SINGAPORTE 398,112
SOUTH KOREA 98,918
MALAYSIA 87,140
US NONE
TOTAL: 1,716,125

B. WOOD SHEETS, INCLUDING PARTICLE BOARD, HARD BOARD

AUSTRIA 1QWNOYW
US 25,160
TOTAL: 279,892

C. BUILDING MATERIALS MADE OF WOOD

UK 104,079
PAKISTAN 79,812
US - NONE
TOTAL: 606,318

D. LOGS, POLES, AND OTHER ROUGH UNSHAPED WOOD

FINLAND 985,846
SINGAPORE 109,607
US - NONE
TOTAL: 2,228,088

E. TIMBER

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AUSTRIA 332,881
SINGAPORE 305,665
MALAYSIA 187,059
USSR 197,625
US - NONE
TOTAL: 2,810,027

4. ALTHOUGH IOGA NOT SCHEDULED TO VISIT OMAN, WE SUGGEST THAT
TWO OR THREE NFPA OFFICIALS VISIT MUSCAT FOR A DAY DURING
SCHEDULED VISIT TO TEHRAN APRIL 25-27.
WOLLE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 09-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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